



Sustainable Arlington

Minutes, Thursday, May 6, 2021, 7:30-9 pm

Present: Tom Ehbrecht, Brucie Moulton, Gail McCormick, Sarah Hill, Lise Hildebrandt, Andrea Golden

The meeting was held virtually on Zoom. The Preamble to Remote Meetings was read aloud at the beginning of the meeting.

The Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development update from Town Planner Kelly Lynema was read aloud in her absence:

- [Connect Arlington](#) (aka the Sustainable Transportation Plan): The final plan is in the last stages of editing and its release is expected later this month.
- [Open Space and Recreation Plan Update](#): This planning process has kicked off and will lead to an updated OSRP that will maintain the town's eligibility for state funding programs related to open spaces and recreation. The first engagement event will be held on June 10 at 7pm. A series of listening posts are planned for open spaces and recreation areas throughout the summer to gather community input.
- [Housing Production Plan Update](#): This planning process is beginning now and will update the 2016 Housing Production Plan (HPP) consistent with state guidelines. Engagement events will begin in early June (or after Town Meeting wraps up). Prior to that, people's individual housing experiences will be collected via a form on the plan website (to be posted soon). The plan will incorporate a vision and strategy for providing housing that serves a range of needs, including addressing diverse housing needs for a range of households and housing types, including seniors and families.
- **Minuteman Bikeway Planning Project**: DPCD will release a Request For Proposal for this CPA-funded project in May. They are very excited to kick off a planning study of the full length of the Bikeway over this coming summer! This project will align with Connect Arlington, and will take a closer look at all aspects of the Bikeway (including developing a number of conceptual plans for improved connections, places to stop and rest, etc.). More news on this project should be available for our June meeting.

DPCD Information Access. The Dept. of Planning & Community Development is aggregating current and upcoming plans, projects, and reports on its website for an at-a-glance view of current initiatives. Visit [arlingtonma.gov/planning](https://www.arlingtonma.gov/planning) and select "Projects, Plans & Reports" from the left side navigation or go to: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/departments/planning-community-development/projects-plans-reports/>

March minutes were approved. read here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L5H-xUORi2MB0pQ-BSjZEXmaj6KYQI877uRu44DICm4/edit>

Call for volunteers. EcoWeek video contest [Ecoweek Video Contest](#) and other [EcoWeek events](#)

Further discussion of the four focus areas for the coming year that we voted on at our last meeting. Who is interested, who can take the lead and what are the next steps?

- a. Arlington's Net Zero Action Plan – collaborate with the Net Zero Action Plan Implementation Working Group. . [Press Release](#). [Net Zero Action Plan](#). Brucie has joined the Net Zero Action Plan implementation group and will report back on the first meeting which is scheduled for March 14. Tom Ehbrecht and Sarah Hill would like to work on this topic,
- b. Transition off fossil fuels – outreach re: why, when, how
- c. Local ecosystem(s) support in Arlington:
 - i. Water quality
 - ii. Soil health
 - iii. Native plant and wildlife systems, including pollinatorsLise hildebrandt, Andrea Golden, Sarah Hill, Brucie Moulton are interested.
- d. Environmental Justice
 - i. How does environmental justice apply in Arlington, in nearby communities, and across Massachusetts? What does it mean to be an ally? (see resources below)Tom and Brucie are interested.

Vote on endorsing Warrant Article 38 Energy Efficient Homes on Nonconforming Lots. The four returning members voted in favor. The two first-time visitors did not vote. We will ask for guidance on whether this number of votes is sufficient to be binding.

Announcements

1. The **Youth Environmental Entrepreneurship Program (YEEP)** is a summer learn and earn program for youth, ages 15-19. YEEP began in 2017 and over 100 high school and college students have now participated, learning how to build a service business to sell/install native plant eco-systems gardens and remove weeds/invasive plants in the communities of Belmont, Cambridge, Newton, and Waltham. This year, the program is expanding into Arlington. Details

at [Empowering BIPOC Youth to Heal the Planet](#) and <https://www.meadowmaking.org/>

2. "Pollinator Pathways," Sunday, May 9, 4-5 pm, a virtual talk for Arlington EcoWeek with Brucie Moulton and Sarah Wang, Mystic Charles Pollinator Pathways Group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mysticcharlespollinators/>

Adjournment.

Resources:

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- [Environmental Justice](#), [mass.gov](#)
- All people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment.
- [Environmental Justice Populations in Massachusetts](#) [mass.gov](#)
- Environmental Justice (EJ) Population Data from 2010 Census based upon demographic criteria developed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
- [map] [2010 Environmental Justice Populations Boston Metro](#)
- See: [publications and presentations on environmental justice](#) by [Prof. Marcos Luna](#), Salem State University

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